



NEWS RELEASE

United States Department of Agriculture
NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE
In Cooperation with the West Virginia Department of Agriculture
West Virginia Field Office
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DECEMBER RED MEAT PRODUCTION

Charleston, West Virginia - Commercial red meat production during December 2017 totaled 800,000 pounds. This was down 1 percent from December 2016. Commercial red meat production is the carcass weight after slaughter including beef, veal, pork, lamb and mutton. Individual commodity production is total live weight of commercial slaughter.

Commercial cattle slaughter totaled 1,007,000 pounds live weight, down 1 percent from December 2016. Cattle slaughter totaled 1,000 head, down 100 head from the previous year. The average live weight was up 29 pounds from the previous year, at 990 pounds.

Commercial calf slaughter was not published to avoid disclosing individual operations.

Commercial hog slaughter totaled 206,000 pounds live weight, up 1 percent from last year. Hog slaughter totaled 700 head, unchanged from the previous year. The average live weight was up 3 pounds from the previous year, at 303 pounds.

Commercial sheep and lamb slaughter was not published to avoid disclosing individual operations.

United States - Commercial red meat production for the United States totaled 4.40 billion pounds in December, up slightly from the 4.40 billion pounds produced in December 2016.

Beef production, at 2.15 billion pounds, was 1 percent below the previous year. Cattle slaughter totaled 2.58 million head, down 1 percent from December 2016. The average live weight was down 2 pounds from the previous year, at 1,379 pounds.

Veal production totaled 6.6 million pounds, 4 percent below December a year ago. Calf slaughter totaled 46,400 head, down 5 percent from December 2016. The average live weight was up 5 pounds from last year, at 245 pounds.

Pork production totaled 2.23 billion pounds, up 1 percent from the previous year. Hog slaughter totaled 10.5 million head, down slightly from December 2016. The average live weight was up 3 pounds from the previous year, at 286 pounds.

Lamb and mutton production, at 12.8 million pounds, was down 2 percent from December 2016. Sheep slaughter totaled 188,100 head, 5 percent below last year. The average live weight was 136 pounds, up 3 pounds from December a year ago.

January to December 2017 commercial red meat production was 52.0 billion pounds, up 3 percent from 2016. Accumulated beef production was up 4 percent from last year, veal was down 1 percent, pork was up 3 percent from last year, and lamb and mutton production was down 3 percent.

December 2016 contained 22 weekdays (including 1 holiday) and 5 Saturdays.

December 2017 contained 21 weekdays (including 1 holiday) and 5 Saturdays.

Note: Percent changes are based on unrounded data.